



SOUTHWEST REGION LICC REPORT ~ SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

First Steps Facilitator: Becky Taggart, representing 27 counties

Regional LICC status:

Active LICCs: 10 active LICCs incorporating 20 counties

Inactive LICCs: 1 inactive LICCs incorporating 2 counties (Newton & McDonald)

LICCs in development: 5 counties out of 27 not represented (Dallas, Douglas, Ozark, Texas, and Wright)

Primary Outcomes of LICCs:

1. Public awareness of the program and the contact point/SPOE
2. Establishing a functioning Child Find system
3. Increasing the number of service providers for children with disabilities
4. Provider Support
5. Council membership and establishing a formal council with by-laws

Summary of activities and accomplishments:

- Barry/Lawrence LICC ~ Master list of contacts for Child Find completed and members volunteered to make contact and provide brochures with the local SPOE phone number.
- Barton/Dade LICC ~ Did not meet during the summer. Next meeting will be September 19, 2003.
- Benton/Henry/St. Clair LICC ~ Did not meet in August; intend to target child care providers in September for child find and to increase membership.
- Camden/Laclede LICC~ Does not meet during the summer. Next meeting will be September 19, 2003.
- Tri-Lakes First Steps Coordination Council (Cedar, Polk, and Hickory) ~ Did not meet in August, and will be electing new chairperson at September meeting due to a vacancy.
- Greene/Christian LICC ~ Working on their by-laws and plan to vote on the final draft next meeting.
- Jasper LICC ~ Three subcommittees working on provider recruitment, child find and by-laws with good attendance at monthly meetings. Now have a parent as a member.
- Phelps/Pulaski LICC ~ Met in July. See SE facilitator's report for specifics.
- Children's Resource Connections (Stone & Taney) ~ Continuing to work on by-laws.
- Texas County ~ attended TEAM meeting and provided handouts with SPOE contact number and general information. Will be presenting First Steps overview at a future meeting.
- Webster LICC ~ First meeting held July 21 with good attendance, FSF provided overview of First Steps, and monthly meetings held since. By-laws have been drafted.

Summary of identified needs or concerns:

- Greene/Christian LICC-Start conference calls for service coordinators again. Reduce cost by restricting locations to call from, limiting to the first 30 calls, or using online instant e-mail.
- Publish announcements of changes on the listserve, such as the rates being changed & the matrix search webpage being changed.
- Benton, Henry, St. Clair LICC-need a way to join the listserve by e-mail, put payment dates back on the website, be paid when home visits are made but families do not show up (see absence policy used by DFS for childcare vendor payments), believe providers should not be asking for Medicaid numbers due to privacy issues, they are losing an OT and SP due to low reimbursement rate and travel expenses, and they want to post LICC meeting dates on the website
- Stone/Taney LICC – Believe the changes Medicaid has made in requiring that children with an IFSP must use only First Steps providers will result in families choosing to drop out of First Steps to increase their choices of providers.
- Barry/Lawrence LICC - Need forms and general information audiotape in Spanish to communicate with families in their native language in Branson, Joplin, Carthage, Monett and elsewhere as needed.
- Provider states that it takes them 1 ½ days to submit their billing.
- New providers can not be found on the matrix until they update their listing with the counties they will be serving. If the CFO would enter the counties they will cover would the new providers show up faster?
- Joplin LICC-“Service coordinators continue to be frustrated with paperwork and the slow process of reimbursement,” and they need assistance in locating money for flyers, postage and printing brochures.
- CFO told a potential translator that they had to have an early childhood special education degree. That is not in the personnel guide. The potential provider did not enroll even though they have since been told they were given incorrect information.
- The CFO told a potential associate service coordinator that they could not enroll until they hired a service coordinator to supervise them. That is not specified in the personnel guide.

Key points and significant information to provide SICC:

There are many LICC members and First Steps providers who volunteer their time to address issues relating to child find and recruitment.